

PENNSYLVANIA REHABILITATION COUNCIL (PaRC)

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WEEKLY UPDATE September 4, 2020

If you no longer wish to receive this update, please contact Katie Haley at mary.haley@ucpcentralpa.org to have your name removed.

NOTE: This update is for informational purposes only. The PaRC and Support Staff are not responsible for the accuracy of this information. Some of the information found in this update you may have already received from another source. The PaRC or the Support Staff do not use this update as a vehicle to express their views and positions. As of **September 4, 2020**, all links have been verified. Please credit the PaRC Support Project for any information forwarded to others. Thank You.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the Council is to inform and advise the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Legislature, and the Governor on the diverse issues affecting employment of people with disabilities.

The PaRC 2019 Annual Report can be found on our webpage or by clicking on the following link

<http://parac.org/reports/2019AnnualReport.pdf>

Find Your Local CAC Meeting Dates: Please go to our website www.parac.org and click on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) link to find dates, locations, times, agendas and minutes, etc. for information on your CAC.

***** PaRC Calendar Year 2020 –Please Mark your Calendars *****

FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

PaRC Full Council meetings will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton** from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM (unless otherwise noted). We will also have parking passes for those who park in the Strawberry Square Parking Garage. Please plan to stay for the entire meeting.

November 18, 2020

The agenda will be posted on the PaRC website.

http://parac.org/council_mtgs.html

PaRC Member Committee Conference Calls – Please Mark your Calendars

CareerLink/WIOA

Next Call: To be Determined

Executive Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Legislative and Public Awareness Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

OVR Policy and State Plan Committee / Customer Satisfaction Conference Call

Next Call: Friday September 4, 2020 at 9:30 AM **CANCELLED**

Social Media/Outreach Committee Conference Call

Next Call: To be Determined

Transition & Education

Next Call: Friday October 9, 2020 at 2:00 PM

Ad Hoc Recruitment Committee

Friday September 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM

The PaRC Social Media and Outreach Committee in partnership with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) produced 6 videos, 5 of which are OVR individual and business success stories, as well as a PaRC Recruitment video. We want to thank both the individuals and companies that participated in making these videos and OVR for supporting the project. The PaRC is pleased to present the following 6 videos. Please feel free to share.

[PaRC Recruitment](#)

[PaRC Aha Moment](#)

[PaRC Dream Partnership](#)

[PaRC Herr Foods Inc.](#)

[PaRC Keystone Blind Association](#)

[PaRC Assistive Technology](#)

PaRC COUNCIL OPENINGS: The PaRC is looking for candidates to fill new openings on the council. If interested, please go to our website (www.parac.org) and fill out an application.

1.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

September Is National Recovery Month!

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/NationalRecoveryMonthFV/>

For more info.

Also Check out <https://www.recoverymonth.gov/> for webinars from SAMHSA and links to more information about

2.) Ending Census Early Could Impact Disability Programs for Years

by Michelle Diamant | August 31, 2020

Plans to end the census a month ahead of schedule may mean fewer people are counted and less funding is available over the next decade for disability services, advocates warn.

The U.S. Census Bureau was expected to collect responses from people across the nation through the end of October after adjusting its plan earlier this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. But this month, the agency announced that it would instead halt all collection activities Sept. 30. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/08/31/ending-census-early-could-impact-disability-programs-for-years/28868/>

3.) Ed Department Says Transition Services Must Continue During Pandemic

by Shaun Heasley | September 1, 2020

Federal officials are reminding schools and vocational rehabilitation agencies of their responsibility to work together to help students with disabilities transition to adulthood, even amid the pandemic.

In a letter this week to special education and vocational rehabilitation administrators across the nation, officials from the

U.S. Department of Education said that while the coronavirus might alter how things are done, the expectations for transition remain. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/09/01/ed-department-transition-continue-pandemic/28879/>

4.) Parents on TikTok mock people with disabilities for the 'New Teacher Challenge.' These women are reclaiming their images

By Scottie Andrew and Kat Jennings, CNN

August 30, 2020

Meet the disability activist standing up to a disturbing TikTok trend

CNN) It always happens the same way: Lizzie Velasquez comes across a hateful video or photo of herself late at night and once she sees it, she cannot sleep.

The cruel comments make her blood boil. A light turns on inside of her, she says, and she will stay up until she says something.

One of the motivational speaker's most-recent late-night pleas racked up over 2 million views and broad online support. To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/30/us/tiktok-new-teacher-challenge-bullying-trnd/index.html>

5.) InclusiveU Students Welcomed by Syracuse University Community

First-year Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Start Their College Experience

By Shaina M. Hill

August 31, 2020

Syracuse, N.Y., Aug. 31, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- When Samuel Clark was looking at colleges, he had two criteria—a top film program and a path to success for students with disabilities. After he had narrowed his choices down to three options, InclusiveU at Syracuse University stood out for him. To read more, go to: <https://www.syracuse.edu/stories/inclusiveu-first-year-welcome/>

6.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

OSERS has published an updated *A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities, August 2020*, to advance our efforts in ensuring that all students and youth with disabilities are equipped with the skills and knowledge to achieve their post-school and career goals. In this updated transition guide, they added information about dual enrollment and the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act. They hope this transition guide will help students and youth with disabilities and their families to better understand how the state education agencies (SEA), the local education agencies (LEA), and the vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies work together to facilitate improved outcomes for students and youth with disabilities. ***A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities***

7.) Mental Health Conditions in the Workplace and the ADA

Job Accommodation Network (JAN). [Accommodation and Compliance Series: Employees with Mental Health Impairments \(link is external\)](#)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). [Succeeding at Work](#)

August 2020

Psychiatric disabilities have a unique dynamic in the workplace because they are both very common and very misunderstood. The purpose of this brief is to inform employers, job applicants and employees about:

- Legal issues around mental health conditions in the workplace.
- Practical strategies that can be used to ensure ADA rights for people with psychiatric disabilities are realized.

“Psychiatric disability” or “mental illness”?

The words “psychiatric disability” and “mental illness” are often used interchangeably. The term mental illness is typically used in a medical context to refer to a wide range of conditions related to emotional and mental health. The term psychiatric disability is typically used in a legal or policy context to refer to impairments covered under the ADA. To continue reading, go to:

<https://adata.org/factsheet/health>

8.) Forwarded from Linda Williams

30 Days Call to Action - 10 Points to Mobilize and Help Pennsylvania Census 2020

- Deadline is [September 30](#) - please use your influence to remind individuals to fill out census on social media, public events and any print media opportunities.
- Record a 2 minutes video calling out 5 social influencers, family or friends to fill out the census [before September 30](#). Tag people to your post.
- Join a local organization already doing phone banking about census.
- Census Week of Action in Pennsylvania - [September 14-18](#)

- Census Media Day in PA - [September 9](#). Visit pa.gov/census and use the sample press release provided. Adjust it to your organization and send it to your local media. Consider posting it on your social media platforms and website. Do a virtual press conference using Facebook live, Skype, Zoom, YouTube, Twitter.
- Bottom 10 counties with lowest response rates need outreach, awareness, and support. Consider reaching out to organizations, local governments, media, higher education institutions in those counties to support census count efforts. Flyers and informational material can be found at pa.gov/census. These counties are:

1. Forest
2. Sullivan
3. Pike
4. Cameron
5. Wayne
6. Potter
7. Susquehanna
8. Monroe
9. Philadelphia
10. Tioga

- 10 most populated counties with lowest response rates or with high concentration of hard to count populations and ethnic minorities need outreach, awareness, and support. Consider reaching out to organizations, local governments, media, higher education institutions in those counties to support census count efforts. Flyers and informational material can be found at pa.gov/census. These counties are:

1. Philadelphia
2. Allegheny
3. Montgomery
4. Delaware
5. Bucks
6. Lancaster
7. Chester
8. York

9. Lucerne

10. Berks

- Support the Census Bureau in identifying community organizations in high tracking areas with low response rates to be Mobile Questionnaire Assistance sites. Contact your closest area census office.
- Contact your area agency on aging and help in outreach efforts to the senior citizens population. Talking points and outreach materials at pa.gov/census.
- Advice neighbors and public officials of enumerators visiting neighborhoods in your area. If visiting areas are confusing, offer enumerators to show them the safest way to reach families and individuals.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND SPREAD THE WORD!

9.) Supported Decision-Making Eyed As Alternative To Guardianship

by Carli Teproff, Miami Herald/TNS | September 1, 2020

MIAMI — At 22, Tyler Borjas had a job, a bank account and got around using Uber and Metrorail.

But he could not legally vote, buy a house, or make travel plans. That is because a Miami-Dade court deemed Borjas, who has autism, “incapacitated,” and placed him under guardianship.

“I want to make my own decisions,” Borjas, who is now 25, said. “I want my rights back.” To continue reading, go to:

<https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2020/09/01/supported-decision-making-eyed-alternative-guardianship/28889/>

10.) A Simple Fix for One Of Disabled People’s Most Persistent, Pointless Injustices

Andrew Pulrang Contributor Diversity & Inclusion
Aug 31, 2020

Lori Long and Dominick Evans each have different disabilities. They live thousands of miles apart and face different everyday challenges, Both have talents, dreams, and hopes for the future. Both they each rely heavily on some combination of Social Security benefits, Medicaid, and Medicare for their very survival and ability to function.

Both Lori and Dominick also have people in their lives they love and want to marry, people who want to marry them. But both are for all practical purposes prevented from marrying because of their disabilities and obscure rules of the programs they depend on. And both have fought and continued to fight to make people aware of these barriers and get them eliminated. It is an election year, which is a good time for candidates to listen, and respond with positive, straightforward proposals to fix this problem, which affects thousands of disabled Americans. To continue reading, go to: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2020/08/31/a-simple-fix-for-one-of-disabled-peoples-most-persistent-pointless-injustices/#77a829346b71>

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